GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2579
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2003
STRENGTHENING OF RAIL BRIDGES
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has cleared an ambitious Rs.31,000 crore project to reduce the possibility of train accidents by adopting the latest technology to strengthen weak rail bridges; (b if so, the details of the projects that will be undertaken;

(c) the progress made so far;

(d) the time by by which these projects are likely to be completed; and

(e) the extent to which these will reduce train accidents?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL)

(a) to (e): A statement is attached.

STATEMENTREFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OFLOKSABHA UNSTARREDQUESTIONNO.2579 BY SHRI G.S.BASAVARAJ ON 18-12-2003 REGARDING STRENGTHENING OF RAIL BRIDGES.

(a) to (d) : The "Corporate Safety Plan" for the period 2003-2013 has been finalized and has been laid on the Table of the Sabha on 19th August, 2003. This document envisages a safety action plan involving total investment of Rs. 31,835 crore for safety enhancement works in the ten year period covering many areas of railway working and safety related assets. These works/projects are directed towards continuous reduction in risk level, enhancement of asset reliability and induction of latest technology etc. These include works/projects for rehabilitation of railway bridges. Programme for modernization & upgradation of Bridge Inspection & Management systems has also been outlined in the Corporate SafetyPlan. It has been enumerated in the plan to take up rehabilitation/ rebuilding of about 2700 bridges under Special Railway Safety Fundduring the next five years. Further, rehabilitation of about 600 bridges annually, including distressed bridges, on condition basis and about 19000 bridges, on the basis of technical obsolescence, are planned to be taken up over the next 10 years through normal plan outlays. Modern methods of repair and rehabilitation requiring lesser speed restrictions are also proposed to be adopted in larger proportions. In the current financial year, the net budgeted allocation for those bridge works, as are already sanctioned, is Rs. 302 crore. Against this, the expenditure till the end of September, 2003 is Rs. 88.03 crore. The timeframe for completion of the works would depend on the quantum of work involved over the entire Indian Railways and availability of funds from year to year. The project-wise requirement of funds may also undergo changes based on periodic reviews. Actual fund allocation for different projects, including bridges would also depend on the inter-se priority of various projects and the total fund availability.

(e) : The Corporate Safety Plan aims to reduce various types of accidents over the period 2003 to 2013 as follows :-

(i) Aim to reduce overall consequential train accidents per million train kilometres from 0.44 in 2002-03 to 0.17 in 2012-13.

(ii) Targetting elimination of collisions by extensive use of Anti- Collision Device (ACD) and other measures.

(iii) 60% reduction in derailments.

(iv) Reduction in fire accidents and consequent fatalities by 80% by adoption of fireproof coaches and use of fire retardant materials in the existing coaches.

(v) Containing the rising trend in level crossing accidents.